



PATENT  
DON01 P-872

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group : 2872  
Examiner : M. Sikder  
Applicants : Kenneth Schofield et al.  
Serial No. : 09/227,344  
Filing Date : January 8, 1999  
For : VEHICLE CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2000, for which a petition and fee for a three-month extension of time are enclosed, Applicants wish to amend their application as follows:

In the Claims:

[ Please amend claims 93 and 100 as follows: ]

93. (amended) Apparatus for controlling vehicle equipment, comprising:

an imaging device for capturing an image of a front seat of the vehicle and outputting image data corresponding thereto; and

a processor which (i) receives the image data output from the imaging device, (ii) compares the received image data with stored image data, and (iii) outputs a vehicle equipment control signal based on the comparison;

wherein said apparatus is substantially insensitive to changes in lighting conditions surrounding said imaging device.

100. (amended) Apparatus for controlling activation of an airbag in a vehicle, comprising:

an imaging device disposed in a front portion of a vehicle compartment for imaging a front seat of said vehicle compartment and outputting image information corresponding to occupancy of the vehicle front seat; and

a processor which (i) receives the image information from the imaging device, (ii)